

# IOWA AFL-CIO NEWS



Volume 22, Issue 1

Official Publication of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

May 2022

## The President's View . . .

# A Tale of Two Republicans – Why We Endorse Labor Friendly Candidates



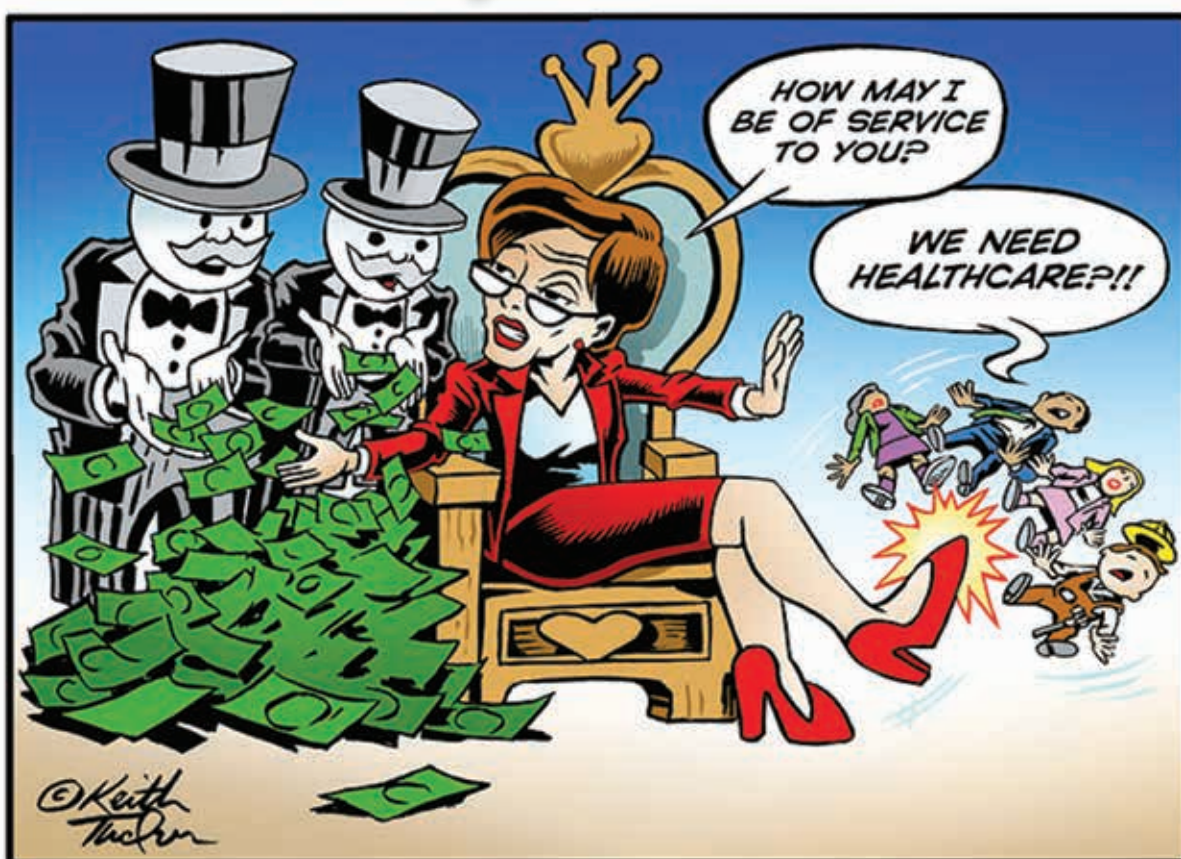
**IFL President  
Charlie Wishman**

On April 23rd, local unions and different labor and trades councils from all across Iowa came together to make decisions on endorsements for state House and Senate, statewide offices, Congress, and United States Senate for the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. We have a few steps to our endorsement process, all of which are quite easy but necessary.

In one particular race, delegates voted to endorse Republican House member Charlie McClintock, who is running for the Iowa Senate in 2022. Representative McClintock is conservative, yet he's stood by organized labor time and time again

since he's been elected. Representative McClintock took the time to go through our endorsement process, which is, to take about an hour or two to understand labor issues through the lens of union members and filled out a simple questionnaire so we know where he stands on issues. Then, finally at the COPE Convention, delegates understood the recommendation of Hawkeye Labor Council, and affirmed it as an endorsement. Because Representative McClintock has been friendly to labor, and opposes anti-worker ideas the Governor has, he has been targeted by her through an old nemesis of organized labor, "Americans for Prosperity," the infamous union-busting group funded and founded by the Koch Brothers.

Another Republican, who I won't identify, but often sides with us on different issues chose not to participate. He was too afraid to be identified with unions and believed that Republican primary voters would not support him if they knew he had our support. That's a silly fantasy, and a belief that's deeply flawed. So, this state representative didn't go through our endorsement process. Guess what? He's still being attacked by fellow Republicans, led by the Governor of this state, for "standing with labor unions" in mail pieces. We support those who support us, but if you're too embarrassed to be associated with us, we can't help that candidate, nor do we want to.



**"WHAT NOW?!!!"**

© KEITH TUCKER  
WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

The endorsements that you see in this issue for the June 7th primary were all decided by members. Not myself, not our staff, and not even just our executive board. Every local affiliated with the Iowa Federation of Labor has the ability to weigh in on these races. What's more, is that it takes two-thirds of the body that's voting to make an endorsement, so a candidate must have broad support and appeal to many different unions across many different sectors to gain our support.

The questions that we ask candidates and the issues we educate both challengers and incumbents alike on, are labor issues that matter to your wallet and your families' well-being. That's what our criteria is. Now some members always have a belief that the union should stay silent on matters of political importance. Why in the world would we cede our voices, especially at such a critical time? That's a misguided perception, because all of our voices matter, col-

lectively. Because of the efforts of the Iowa Federation of Labor and our many affiliates' voices, we had successes this year. While we were not able to stop a very bad unemployment bill, we did make sure that there was no one week waiting period for benefits being paid out. The Republican floor manager of the bill himself even noted that because of the feedback from union members, especially in the building trades, the one week wait came out of the final bill. Your voice matters, and we can win when we use it collectively.

Unless you're rich and powerful (which most of us are not), the most important voice you have is your union card and your ballot. Unfortunately, the ballot box can be used to take away your rights at work. We've seen this in Iowa, and we've seen this across the nation. It's time for it to end. Use your ballot wisely, and make sure that you're supporting the candidates that support you and your rights at work.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PRESORT INC

Iowa AFL-CIO News  
Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO  
2000 Walker St., Suite A  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317



IFL 2020 Election  
**66th Annual IFL  
Convention**

.....Page 3

IFL 2020 Election  
**IFL 2022 Election  
Endorsements**

.....Page 8

# Infrastructure, the Arts, and Puppets: A Conversation Between the Past and the Present

By Peter Rachleff,  
Labor Historian

President Biden's proposed American Jobs Act has kickstarted debates about how to revive the U.S. economy in the aftermath of the pandemic, including disagreements about "what is infrastructure?" Here at the East Side Freedom Library, we think these debates should be informed by consideration of the Works Progress Administration projects of the New Deal, particularly in the arts. Today, we'd like to focus on one program we find inspiring, the Buffalo Historical Marionettes of the WPA's Federal Theatre Project. This project created

more than 200 jobs and encouraged a diverse community to explore and engage history, including the ways that racism had shaped the present. Buffalo's history was shaped by its location on "the Niagara Frontier," making it a transportation and man-

ufacturing center by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, particularly Italians and Poles, found their way to jobs, first on the city's docks, railways, and ships, and then in its booming steel mills, auto plants, and machine shops. When World War I and the new restriction laws of 1923-24 disrupted this immigration, thousands of African Americans moved from the South to fill the demand for industrial and service labor. By the end of the 1920s, two-thirds of the city's white working class were immigrants and their

children, while two-thirds of the city's Black workers were Southern-born. Both of these groups faced the scorn and hostility of an energized Ku Klux Klan, which blended racism, xenophobia, and prohibition into a noxious brew.

alike to reconsider American history at a critical time. The African American performers, "the Jubilee Singers," played three shows in repertory: *Eli Whitney and the Invention of the Cotton Gin*; *The Life of Stephen Foster*, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Their name suggests their connection to the tradition of the original Fisk University Jubilee Singers. The Buffalo group was part of a nationwide network of quartets that emerged out of the WWI era northward migration, adapting their southern musical styles and practices. Prior to the Great Depression, its eight members had participated in such community institutions as churches, the Urban League's chorus, the colored YMCA, and the Colored Musicians' Union, itself a central institution in Buffalo's African American community.

They brought their experiences and perspectives into the shaping of their plays. Two – *Eli Whitney and the Invention of the Cotton Gin* and *The Life of Stephen Foster* featured white protagonists who made their fame and fortune at the expense of African Americans, only to lose it all through their own foibles, the chicanery of other white people, and the property rules (patents and copyrights) of a capitalist economy. Their adaptation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* highlighted the centrality of resistance by enslaved women and men. Their the revision of the well-known story's conclusion repre-

*continued on page 4*



sentee ballots by mail up to 70 days prior to election day. **2022 Primary Election first day to request absentee ballot by mail is Tuesday, March 29.** The request form for the 2022 Primary Election must be received in your county auditor's office by 5:00 PM CST on Monday, May 23, 2022. Auditor mails you absentee Ballots no sooner than 20 days before election day (May 19<sup>th</sup>). For ballot replacement, allow "several" days before you contact the county auditor. **Monday, May 23<sup>th</sup>, 2022 is the last day to request a ballot to be mailed to you;** **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, when the Auditor's Office is open for absentee voting.** The last day to vote at the Audi-

tor's Office is Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>; **To Vote At the polls on election day, June 7<sup>th</sup>, will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.** **RETURNING THE BALLOT** Mark your ballot, follow the instructions included with the ballot - return it in the postage-paid return envelope. **It is vital that you utilize the return envelope supplied by the county auditor.** Mail your ballot so that is received before 8 PM CT on Election Day – June 7 **Hand deliver your ballot to your county auditor during business hours or any time up until 8 PM CST on Election Day – June 7** You may designate someone to return your ballot under one of following circumstances:

## ABSENTEE BY MAIL – Request Deadline for Mailed Ballots

- The designee is a member of your household.
- You are disabled and you have designed someone to return your ballot.

**Surrender your absentee ballot at your precinct polling place on Election Day and vote a regular ballot;**

**Vote a provisional ballot at the polls on Election Day if you cannot surrender your voted absentee ballot.**

**Voted absentee ballots cannot be delivered to the polling place on election day.**

### TRACKING THE BALLOT

After the request form is received by the county auditor – Track the status of an absentee ballot. To get a ballot status update: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/absentee/search>

tor's Office is Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>; **To Vote At the polls on election day, June 7<sup>th</sup>, will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

**RETURNING THE BALLOT** Mark your ballot, follow the instructions included with the ballot - return it in the postage-paid return envelope. **It is vital that you utilize the return envelope supplied by the county auditor.** Mail your ballot so that is received before 8 PM CT on Election Day – June 7 **Hand deliver your ballot to your county auditor during business hours or any time up until 8 PM CST on Election Day – June 7** You may designate someone to return your ballot under one of following circumstances:

**RETURNING THE BALLOT** Mark your ballot, follow the instructions included with the ballot - return it in the postage-paid return envelope. **It is vital that you utilize the return envelope supplied by the county auditor.** Mail your ballot so that is received before 8 PM CT on Election Day – June 7 **Hand deliver your ballot to your county auditor during business hours or any time up until 8 PM CST on Election Day – June 7** You may designate someone to return your ballot under one of following circumstances:

**RETURNING THE BALLOT** Mark your ballot, follow the instructions included with the ballot - return it in the postage-paid return envelope. **It is vital that you utilize the return envelope supplied by the county auditor.** Mail your ballot so that is received before 8 PM CT on Election Day – June 7 **Hand deliver your ballot to your county auditor during business hours or any time up until 8 PM CST on Election Day – June 7** You may designate someone to return your ballot under one of following circumstances:

**RETURNING THE BALLOT** Mark your ballot, follow the instructions included with the ballot - return it in the postage-paid return envelope. **It is vital that you utilize the return envelope supplied by the county auditor.** Mail your ballot so that is received before 8 PM CT on Election Day – June 7 **Hand deliver your ballot to your county auditor during business hours or any time up until 8 PM CST on Election Day – June 7** You may designate someone to return your ballot under one of following circumstances:

**RETURNING THE BALLOT** Mark your ballot, follow the instructions included with the ballot - return it in the postage-paid return envelope. **It is vital that you utilize the return envelope supplied by the county auditor.** Mail your ballot so that is received before 8 PM CT on Election Day – June 7 **Hand deliver your ballot to your county auditor during business hours or any time up until 8 PM CST on Election Day – June 7** You may designate someone to return your ballot under one of following circumstances:

- The designee is an immediate family member.

**Monday, May 23<sup>th</sup>, 2022 is the last day to request a ballot to be mailed to you;** **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, when the Auditor's Office is open for absentee voting.** The last day to vote at the Audi-

**For the 2022 General Election, the first day to request an absentee ballot by mail is Tuesday, August 30, 2022.**



The Iowa AFL-CIO News is the official publication of the

Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

2000 Walker St., Suite A  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

and is published quarterly.

(515) 262-9571

[iowaafclcio.org](http://iowaafclcio.org)

## Officers & Staff

President

**CHARLIE WISHMAN**  
[charlie@iowaafclcio.org](mailto:charlie@iowaafclcio.org)

Secretary/Treasurer

**PETER HIRD**  
[peter@iowaafclcio.org](mailto:peter@iowaafclcio.org)

Political Director

**AL WOMBLE**  
[al@iowaafclcio.org](mailto:al@iowaafclcio.org)

Communications Director

**LANCE COLES**  
[lance@iowaafclcio.org](mailto:lance@iowaafclcio.org)

Organizing Director

**BEN MURRY**  
[ben@iowaafclcio.org](mailto:ben@iowaafclcio.org)

Bookkeeper

**JAMIE MILLER**  
[jamie@iowaafclcio.org](mailto:jamie@iowaafclcio.org)



(812) 923-1111

*The Secretary-Treasurer's Notes . . .*

# Don't Be Distracted or Misdirected



**IFL Secretary Treasurer  
Peter Hird**

Let's not let national politics and campaign centered legislation from this session distract us from what has happened in the last several years. We have seen some of the worst legislation in the country for workers here in Iowa. The current leadership in our state prioritizes cutting worker protections, exploiting our children to fix a child care crisis, and a flat tax that far more benefits the wealthiest Iowans and corporations. They don't campaign on busting unions, rolling back child labor laws, defunding public education, cutting earned unemployment benefits, and removing other worker protections, but they have been doing it for the last six years.

What amazes me is the boldness of those politicians as they generalize the impact on people to defend their beloved corporate friends. In the beginning of the session, the Governor said that workers used the unemployment system as a hammock in a speech to the entire state. We all knew what she was alluding to. Even though workers in the state worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and tens of thousands of people lost their jobs as businesses closed, somehow they became the ones to blame. In subcommittees, the lobbyists of Iowa's biggest businesses were there banging the drum of unemployment cuts. John Deere, MidAmerican, Hy-Vee, Wells Fargo and Facebook may not have been in the room, but their lobbyist from the Association of Business and Industry was. Another group, National Federation of Independent Business, the self-declared voice of small business, lists their opposition to several of our long time labor priorities including the Build Back Better Act that increases fines on "small employers for overtime, minimum wage, OSHA, and National Labor Relations Act violations".

Don't be misdirected in the unemployment discussion. This is about forcing people into jobs they don't want and to lower the tax rate of businesses. The unemployment bill cut maximum benefit weeks from twenty-six to sixteen, redefined the definition of misconduct, which will end up denying more individuals unemployment, and changed the rules of when you must take a lower paying job in the course of your search for new employment. One

thing they weren't able to get, an extra one week waiting period before collecting the first benefit check, was only stopped because of Iowa's labor movement and their allies. Because of the work you all did, TWENTY-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS won't be taken from workers who lose their job at no fault of their own.

The reality is, you don't get unemployment if you don't work. Nearly everyone who wants to work is working, and those that left the workforce aren't on unemployment insurance. Iowa lost tens of thousands of workers over the last two years. There are numerous reasons: low wages, lack of flexibility in hours, lack of paid time off and one of the biggest reasons we hear about... child care issues. A parent has to compare the cost of child care to what their job is providing in wages, benefits, and working conditions. A problem nearly every parent is confronted with is paying for child care for only two kids, takes two fifty hour paychecks and costs eighteen hundred dollars per month.

So, what does the Governor and the legislative leadership do? Pass bills to lower the cost of care for every family? No. Incentivize businesses to pay workers more? No. Create a statewide paid leave program to help create a more stable work-family balance? No.

What they did was pass a bill to lower the unsupervised age of child care center workers from eighteen years of age to sixteen years of age, and increase the amount of two and three year-olds that can be under the supervision of a daycare center staff member. Under this legislation, three sixteen year-olds could be watching up to thirty three year-old kids with no adult supervision. To call this a band-aid wouldn't do it justice. At least a band-aid would help protect us from further damage.

The policies of Iowa leadership are driven by corporate money making ideas. The bill to move us to a flat-tax sounds good to many people, but the devil is in the details. Everyone pays the same tax percentage, right? Well initially they do until the tax deductions start to pile on. Two middle class workers who provide for their family don't get a lot of tax deductions. Those with lots of extra money can keep more by putting money into retirement accounts and deducting an extravagant home mortgage. This tax is for the one-percenters. The people and corporations that make the most.

As of the time of writing this article the legislature is still in session, more than two weeks after the proposed last day. The Senate and the Governor are holding the legislature

hostage as they try to force private school vouchers down the throat of Iowans who overwhelmingly reject them. I understand that fighting this fight can seem hopeless; this session has been another bad one. What I've learned is, your voice does matter. I had a legislator who was for cutting unemployment benefits tell me they have only heard from unions about the bill. He never heard from anyone representing "the non-union workers." That person didn't get it. They don't even understand that workers without a union has no one lobbying for them. We are the voice of every worker. If we don't speak up, the livelihoods of one and a half million workers are dictated by the employers, in the workplace and at the capitol.

Your vote matters too. If it didn't, the billion dollar corporate super PACs wouldn't be trying to bust our unions and run negative ads about our endorsed candidates. We can't get caught up in the manufactured political hoaxes that divide us as we try to build a better union. There are no cat litter boxes in schools so don't bother talking about them. We are and have forever been in battle with greed in this country. It's time to further build our group of allies and protect the American dream that previous generations of union members fought and died for.

*Iowa Federation of Labor Convention*

*Hall of Fame Dinner*

*August 24-26, 2022*

*August 25th*

# Working Families Join Demons

By Holly Sagar

“Safe jobs save lives, keep the promise alive” on the 39th annual Workers Memorial Day (WMD). This year also marks the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the right of workers to safe jobs.

On Thursday, April 28th, for Workers Memorial Day, working families from across the state, will gathered to honor workers who were injured, killed or made sick on the job in Iowa in 2020 and 2021, and to call for stronger laws protecting workers’ health and safety. The COVID-19 pandemic devastated working families and highlighted the fundamental right to and importance of a safe job for every worker. Community and elected leaders will join union members to call for laws that will “measure up” to the promise of worker safety.

The observation was one of hundreds around the world as working families and union members commemorate brothers and sisters who died on the job for the annual Workers Memorial Day.

Iowa families lost more than 70 lives to workplace related fatalities and illnesses in 2020 and 2021.



## Infrastructure, the Arts, and Puppets: A Conversation Between the Past and the Present

*continued from page 2*

sented emancipation as an outcome of Black agency. As in the widely-read 1853 Harriet Beecher Stowe novel, when Uncle Tom overcomes his conditioning as an obedient slave by refusing to reveal where Eliza has gone, he is whipped to death by overseer Simon Legree. But, departing from the text’s heart-breaking ending, the Buffalo play added a scene, one in which a puppet of Abraham Lincoln floats over Tom’s crumpled body, reciting the Emancipation Proclamation, voiced by an African American performer. Tom has not died in vain. With audiences left to contemplate this image, the Jubilee Singers closed the curtain and descended from the bridge to take their bow. Revealed at last, large as life WPA/FTP workers, citizens of the Buffalo community, African Americans. They embodied what those miniature figures had represented. And they had controlled the strings.

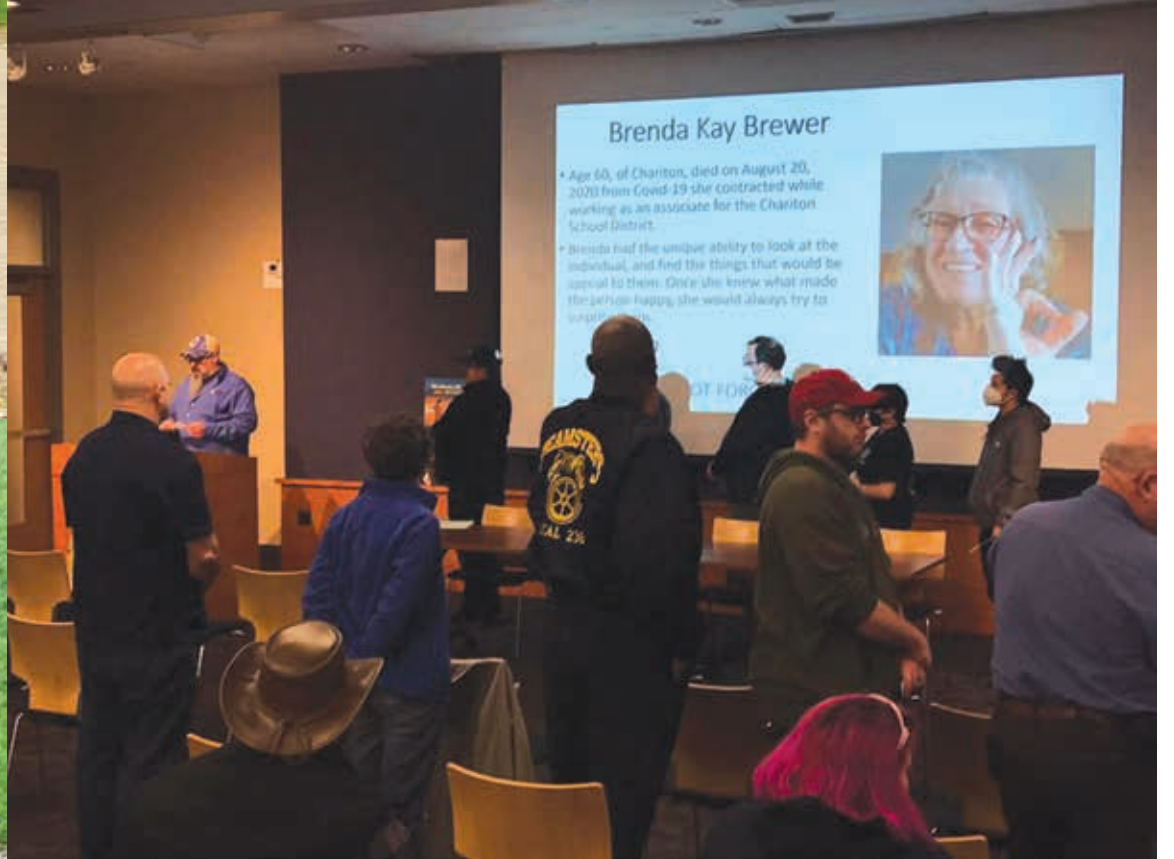
This rarely told story suggests that federal funding of “infrastructure” can not only build much-needed bridges and broadband cables, can not only create a wide range of jobs for a wide range of working women and men, but it can also create the contexts for conversations between the past and the present which can help us chart our course to a better future for all of us.

The East Side Freedom Library is committed to hosting and convening these conversations, online and in person. Sometimes we even host puppet plays as conversation starters! Join us on Saturday, June 19, at 11am, when the Open Eye Figure Theater will bring a story of Vietnamese-American children, “The Amazing Cowboat” to our front lawn.

Follow us at <https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org> and sign up for our twice-monthly newsletters at <https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/maillinglist>.



# Demonstrations Nationwide for WMD



*Pray for the Dead and  
Fight Like Hell for the Living!*

— Mother Jones

# What We Really Need to Talk About

By Al Womble,  
IFL Political Director

Usually when people talk about elections they talk about Republicans versus Democrats. However, that is not the reality we exist in. We need to talk about labor friendly candidates and Anti Labor candidates. We need to talk about those who are fighting for workers rights and their fair share and to those who are defenders of corporate greed.

When we take a look at the current Anti-Labor party that controls our state government there is a lot of harm they have done, not just to unions, but to all working class Iowans everywhere. In 2017 they stripped Chapter 20 and workers compensation. In the previous gen-

eral assembly they passed restrictions that not only make it harder to vote, but they also made it harder for us to reach out to our members, who do not have the time or ability to get to a polling station, and assist them in turning in their ballots. This year they clearly are telling us that the education of only 10,000 private school students around the state of Iowa is far more important to support and fund than the nearly half million of the students of working class families. Finally, in an era of record corporate profits and stagnant wage growth the Defenders of Corporate Greed decided they needed to engineer large tax breaks that will largely benefit the wealthiest among us and to cut unemploy-

ment benefits in order to create more savings on corporate taxes.

Last year we saw our sisters and brothers of the UAW stand up to corporate greed and say, "Enough!!" You are making record profits off our labor, while putting us in hazardous working conditions and attacking our pensions!!" The stance against corporate greed had massive support from communities all around the state of Iowa as people have finally had enough of those who are the Takers, not the Makers. These words have been held up as truth as other regular people have stood up and shouted, "Enough!" which lead to strikes in other areas and industries.

None of the Anti-Labor officials

currently at the state house ran on cutting Chapter 20, cutting Workers Compensation, funding the wealthiest among us to send their kids to private schools, or cutting unemployment, but they took those steps anyway and hurt working class families all over the state. It is now time for us to decide that these elections are about supporting labor friendly candidates and those who fight for working families rights and to get their Fair Share! It is time for us to stand up and to say no more to those who support corporate greed, no more to people who tilt the scales to the wealthy and powerful and no more to your time in office. It is time to vote for labor friendly candidates who will fight for the Makers, Not the Takers.

## NEW REPORT: Iowa Working Families Can't Afford Corporate Kim's Agenda

Des Moines, Iowa -- Progress Iowa Executive Director Matt Sinovic issued the following statement in response to Common Good Iowa's new report, The Cost of Living in Iowa 2022:

"Iowans work hard, but things are tough right now because of Corporate Kim Reynolds. It's hard to take care of ourselves, let alone each other. And today's report from Common Good Iowa reaffirmed what we already know. The things that cost and matter the most -- a roof over our heads, childcare for our kids, healthcare for our families -- have long been put out of reach.

"According to today's report, Iowa workers have to earn well

over the minimum wage, and in some cases well above the state's median wage, to meet even an exceptionally frugal basic-needs budget.' We know the reason hard-working Iowans just can't get ahead

is because Corporate Kim Reynolds and other Republicans have made it impossible.

"By blocking wage increases and siding with corporations that don't pay enough, Reynolds is hurting

our families and forcing people to leave rural Iowa. Even as workers struggle, she and Republicans are stripping workers of earned unemployment benefits, forcing Iowans into low paying jobs. At the same time, Reynolds continues to give the rich and wealthy businesses tax breaks, while taking money away from our public schools, public safety, and health care services, exacerbating her workforce crisis.

"We can't survive like this. We need real leaders who stand with working people - not those who hand out kickbacks to corporations. We need to pass laws to stop corporate price gouging, curb education debt, make childcare and healthcare affordable, and raise our wages."



## Midwest Labor Press Association Conference

**October  
24-26, 2022**

**VIA Zoom**

### Classes on:

- ★ Writing for Maximum Impact
- ★ Video to Support Your Message
- ★ Creative Social Media Campaigns
- ★ Public Speaking and Media Relations
- ★ Effective Newsletter Layout and Design
- ★ How to Handle Difficult Conversations
- ★ Interview Tips for Interviewers

**We welcome all Union Communicators  
Registration information coming soon.**

If interested in attending contact Lance Coles at  
[lance@iowaaficio.org](mailto:lance@iowaaficio.org)



# Iowa Tax Cuts: Making Iowa Less Attractive

By Peter Fisher,  
Research Director,  
Common Good Iowa

At some point in life, you decided Iowa was the place to live, work, and raise your family. Iowa offered something attractive. Maybe it was clean air or water. Maybe it was Iowa's renowned education system. Maybe it was a good union job.

All of those assets reflect a culture of respect and opportunity that our public institutions once honored and protected. Yes, we're talking about "government," which works in our name, only because Iowans pay taxes that make the work possible. That is changing, dramatically.

**Iowa is now in a race to the bottom**, our Governor and Legislature leading the way with a nearly unmitigated drive to cut taxes, to shrink government while rewarding corporations and the rich.

The tax bill passed this year slashes the mainstay of state revenue, the income tax, by 40 percent. It is the latest and largest in a line of income-tax cuts implemented over the last 25 years, and now on an accelerated pace with cuts passed in 2018, 2021 and this year. Legislators don't bother to stop and evaluate the impact, passing new cuts before previous cuts are fully implemented.

Cleverly, they don't give voters a chance to see the impact immediately, either. They phase in the cuts, long past the next election or two. When the impact is clear, it will be too late. They may even cut more.

This year, the cuts are not so obvious because the state has a budget surplus fueled by federal pandemic aid — stimulus checks, an increased child tax credit and child care credit, and unprecedented boost in un-



employment compensation over the past two years. These measures, plus aid to state and local governments, put billions into the hands of consumers and brought a swift end to the recession.

**But as all of that vanishes, the 2022 tax cuts will keep digging a deeper hole.** When fully phased in by 2028, the 2022 bill will cut \$1.9 billion a year from general fund revenues.

To put this in perspective, the entire state general fund budget is about \$8 billion. Over half of that goes to education: community colleges, the three public universities, and state aid to K-12 schools. The rest funds all the other services Iowans depend on: health care, infrastructure, public safety, state parks and recreation, child welfare, enforcement of labor and environmental regulations.

A nearly \$2 billion cut is bound to necessitate substantial cuts in those services. Already the state forecasts a drop in revenues in 2023, when the tax cuts are just beginning to take effect. School fund-

\$100,000. The average millionaire will save \$62,000 a year. For those in the middle, with incomes between \$40,000 and \$60,000, the savings will average just \$300 — that's about \$6 a week. The majority of those with income under \$40,000, who represent almost 40 percent of taxpayers, will get nothing at all. "Everyone gets a tax cut?" No, they don't. "The average cut is \$1,300?" Not by any reasonable measure — the average Iowan gets one fourth of that.

Already, Iowa taxes overall and Iowa taxes on business have been right in the middle of the pack for decades. This isn't about rational economic policy, its about cutting taxes for your friends and contributors.

This obsession with tax cuts will not turn out well. Even when sitting on a billion-dollar surplus the Legislature cannot find the money to do those things that make Iowa attractive.

Why will workers want to come here? Why will young people want to stay?

*NOTE: To see how the tax cut bill will affect you, check out this tax calculator created by Todd Brady.*

[https://www.brady-software.com/tax-calculator?filingType=single&age1=over&age2=under&numDeps=0&ss\\_bene=020000&other\\_6000&income=0&premiums=5000](https://www.brady-software.com/tax-calculator?filingType=single&age1=over&age2=under&numDeps=0&ss_bene=020000&other_6000&income=0&premiums=5000)

*All impacts are from the Iowa Department of Revenue analysis of the tax bill when fully implemented in 2026, with taxpayers classified by federal adjusted gross income.*

## Lessons from Amazon and Starbucks

By Jay Smith & Dennis McElwain

There is not a lot of good news coming out of the Iowa Legislature this session. As expected, the majority party has continued its assault on Iowa's workers, which began with the gutting of Chapter 20 and workers' compensation in 2017, and has continued over the last five years with the newest assault on Iowa's unemployment compensation system. Sometimes, however, it is important to set aside the bad and find some good.

Somewhat surprisingly, we can find the good with the organizing of Starbucks stores and the Amazon distribution center in Long Island, New York. Starbucks and Amazon are two unique, national brands in the United States. Coupled with that unique, national branding is the typical corporate anti-union stance. Nonetheless, some brave workers decided enough was enough, and they decided to take a stand. There are some important lessons from these campaigns.

As anyone associated with the Labor Movement knows, for the last forty years, corporate America has

steadily whittled away labor's power. Through the closure of plants to move operations overseas, misclassification of workers, and hard-knuckled anti-union campaigns, corporate America has taken aim at dividing workers by making workers believe that unions have nothing to offer.

With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, corporate American began to show workers what the Labor Movement has understood all along, and that is, for the most part, big business simply views workers as a mode of production — something as easily replaced as a broken part or outdated process. Unlike situations in the past, this time, as the labor market began to tighten (not because of more generous unemployment benefits or an unwillingness to want to work), workers began to realize that there is more to life than working a low paying job or jobs just to make ends meet. More important, however, many workers began to again realize that the power of their voices, when banded together, could stand up to the interests of big business.

This realization began in Striketober, as the Iowa Labor Movement knows, with examples such as the John Deere strike. But, the realization did not stop with workers who were organized, it spilled over to employees who worked for such employers as Starbucks and Amazon where, until now, workers have found it difficult to come together to use their collective voices. Organizing fast-food (or fast-coffee) employers is inherently difficult. The number of workers, the number of part-time workers, and the high turnover rate makes it difficult to organize individual fast-food establishments. Similarly, due to the nature of the work at Amazon distribution centers, which creates a high amount of turnover amongst employees, it has been difficult for organized labor to get a foot in the door.

Nonetheless, despite these obstacles, the workers at many Starbucks locations and the Amazon distribution in Long Island persevered and won difficult elections. The manner in which they won is simple — they had buy in from each other because they did it together. In al-

most every anti-union campaign, employers bring in their anti-union thugs to convey the message that "we don't need a third party in our relationship, we will listen to your concerns, you don't need someone else, etc." In many cases, this message works. But, at Starbucks and Amazon, it failed. It failed because, if we look closely at those organizing campaigns, those organizing campaigns were largely run by the workers themselves. There was buy-in from the workers because they felt empowered, and they had ownership in the outcome.

The lesson, then, from Starbucks and Amazon is simple, but it is something that we sometimes forget when we struggle to fend off the constant attack from anti-union forces. And, that is, to grow our numbers, to have successful campaigns, and to make life better for American workers, we must work to empower those we represent and remind them that they have a stake in the outcome. If we remember this lesson, Starbucks and Amazon will come to represent the beginning of a new era for the Labor Movement.

# Iowa Federation of Labor 2022 Election Endorsements

The Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO held its Committee on Political Education (C.O.P.E) Convention, April 23, in Des Moines, Iowa this past weekend. This is the formal step in the process to evaluate candidates for the first round of endorsements for the 2022 election cycle.

"The Iowa Federation of Labor endorsement process is very democratic. Local labor councils evaluate and recommend endorsements to the state organization, where they must get two-thirds support to get an endorsement," said Charlie Wishman, President of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. "We consider all candidates who go through our endorsement process, and they are vetted as well by those in local AFL-CIO chapters. The Iowa Federation of Labor is looking for candidates, regardless of party, who are committed to advancing policies that are in the best interests of all working people

and who want to reverse the anti-worker course that this state has been on for some time. We have endorsed both Republicans and Democrats this cycle, and stand with those who stand with us."

Additional endorsements may be made as candidate questionnaires are completed and returned. IFL Secretary-Treasurer Pete Hird noted, "Some candidates do not engage in our endorsement process for one reason or another, which effectively eliminates them from endorsement opportunities with our organization. Our program requires candidates to tell us where they stand on issues important to working Iowans before we will support them as well as to learn about the issues that are important to and matter to organized labor."

Some candidates were not endorsed at this time, but can be considered at a later date for endorsement.

## FEDERAL

**US Senate:** Former Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer

**First District Congress:** State Representative  
Christina Bohannon

**Second District Congress:** State Senator Liz Mathis

**Third District Congress:** Congresswoman Cindy Axne

**Fourth District Congress:** Ryan Melton

## STATEWIDE

**Governor:** Deidre DeJear

**Secretary of State:** Joel Miller

**Auditor of State:** Rob Sand

**Treasurer of State:** Mike Fitzgerald

**Secretary of Agriculture:** John Norwood

### Iowa House Endorsements:

HD 1: J.D. Scholten

HD 2: Steve Hansen

HD 6: James Eliason

HD 19: Vergarie Sanford

HD 20: Josh Turek

HD 21: Joe Kerner

HD 25: Diana Swartz

HD 27: Kenan Judge

HD 28: Sonya Heitshusen

HD 29: Brian Meyer

HD 30: Megan Srinivas

HD 32: Jennifer Konfrst

HD 33: Ruth Ann Gaines

HD 34: Ako Abdul Samad

HD 35: Sean Bagnewski

HD 36: Gabriel De La Cerda

HD 39: Rick Olson

HD 40: MacKenzie Bills

HD 41: Molly Buck

HD 42: Heather Matson

HD 43: Suresh Reddy

HD 44: John Forbes

HD 46: Bridget Carberry Montgomery

HD 47: Gary Overla

HD 48: Penny Vossler

HD 50: Ross Wilbun

HD 52: Sue Cahill

HD 53: Sarah Smith

HD 59: Sharon Steckman

HD 61: Timi Brown-Powers

HD 62: Jerome Amos Jr.

HD 63: Tim Lecander

HD 67: Terry McGovern

HD 69: Jennifer Hansen

HD 70: Kay Pence

HD 71: Lindsay James

HD 72: Chuck Isenhardt

HD 73: Elizabeth Wilson

HD 75: Bob Kressig

HD 76: Kate Wyatt

HD 74: Eric Gjerde

HD 77: Jeff Cooling

HD 78: Sami Sheetz

HD 79: Tracy Ehlert

HD 80: Art Staed

HD 81: Craig Cooper

HD 83: Kris Nall

HD 84: Sara Yedlik

HD 85: Amy Nielsen

HD 86: Dave Jacoby

HD 89: Tony Currin

HD 90: Andrew Dunn

HD 94: Phyllis Thede

HD 96: Shelly Servadio Elias

HD 98: Monica Kurth

HD 100: Rebecca Bowker

### Iowa Senate Endorsements:

SD 1: Jackie Smith

SD 11: Lisa Fleishman

SD 14: Sarah Trone Garriott

SD 16: Claire Celsi

SD 17: Izaah Knox

SD 19: Tyler Stewart

SD 21: Todd Brady

SD 23: Matt Pries

SD 25: Herman Quirnbach

SD 30: Whitney Mixdorf

SD 33: Matt Robinson

SD 35: Joe Brown

SD 37: Molly Donahue

SD 39: Joe Zahorik

SD 40: Todd Taylor

SD 41: Deb Vandergaast

SD 42: Charlie McClintock - (Primary Only)

SD 43: Zach Whals

SD 45: Janice Weiner

SD 46: Kevin Kinney

SD 47: Mary Kathleen Figaro

SD 49: Cindy Winckler